

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231274

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EAST BERLIN VOLKSKAMMER DEPUTIES
UNDER NEW GDR ELECTION LAW

REF: USBERLIN 1386; BONN 12889; USBERLIN 1812

1. DEPT IS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH BRITISH, FRENCH
AND FRG DESIRE FOR LAYING DOWN A MARKER WITH THE SOVIETS
CONCERNING THE CHANGE IN THE GDR ELECTION LAW, AND AGREES
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IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CHAIRMAN POLAD TO RAISE

THE SUBJECT WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART AT A MEETING AT WHICH OTHER MATTERS WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

2. WE BELIEVE THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE RAISED IN A LOW-KEY MANNER SUFFICIENT TO GET THE ALLIES ON RECORD WHILE REDUCING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A REJOINDER BY THE SOVIETS. TO THIS END WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE CHAIRMAN POLAD, RATHER THAN REQUESTING A SOVIET CLARIFICATION (BONN 12889), TO MENTION THAT THE ALLIES HAVE BECOME AWARE THAT CERTAIN CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE GDR VOLKSKAMMER ELECTION LAW, AND ASSUME THAT THEY DO NOT AFFECT THE NATURE OF THE REPRESENTATION OF EAST BERLIN IN THE VOLKSKAMMER. SHOULD THE SOVIETS REP CHOOSE TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE STATEMENT, THEN THE CHAIRMAN POLAD COULD REPLY AS SUGGESTED IN BONN 12889 (THIRD SUBPARA OF PARA 3 ROBINSON

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